

Listening session Little Rock, AR 14 Oct 2005

When I look at the 2002 farm bill and consider the positive benefits that it has given us I question, "is there a need to create a new farm bill?" To consider dismantling a farm program concept that has worked well since the 1930's at this point seems irresponsible. With the serious economic stress on our industry is it wise to make such a drastic change? The 2002 farm bill has many advantages. It affords us a safety net, it protects the family farm concept, and it is environmentally responsible, encourages conservation, and provides nutrition and supports rural development. That's a pretty sound piece of legislation in my opinion. It would best serve the interest of most of us at this meeting if that legislation were just extended for another 5 years. We have plenty of things to work on without fixing something that isn't broke. I ask you to take this thought back to Washington with you.

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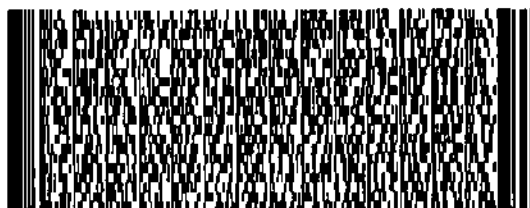
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